led to pesticide resistance in pests in crops and polluting soils and environment.

(iii) Soil/Seed/Fertilizer testing infrastructure would be strengthened further so as to keep the cost of cultivation within manageable limits.

(iv) Cutting down the cost of cultivation through improving the efficiency of agricultural machinery.

(v) Development of cost-effective appropriate post-harvest technological packages for handling farm produce, providing facilities for marketing, grading, precooling, storage and refrigerated transportation of fruits and vegetables to distant markets.

(vi) Strengthening of location specific research in various regions of Punjab State.

(vii) Emphasis on land reclamation programme and dry-land farming in the arid/sub-mountain zone.

Conservation of Shrimp in Andhra Pradesh

1681. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether deep-sea prawn trawlers and mechanised boat operators are at loggerheads on the issue of conservation of shrimp; and

(b) the steps taken to hammer out a solution to free the fishing harbour in Andhra Pradesh out of tension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The dispute between Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators Association and Trawler Operators Association in Andhra Pradesh regarding observance of no fishing season during April to June 98 for conservation of shrimp and fish has been resolved in a meeting held by the District Collector, Vishakhapatnam on 18.4.1998 which was attended by the concerned Fishing Associations.

Production and demand of milk and milk products

1682. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and demand of milk and milk products in the country;

(b) the estimated requirement of milk and milk products during the next two years;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any comprehensive plan for increasing milk production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As per provisional estimates, the total production of milk in the country during 1997-98 is about 70.8 million tonnes, of which about 55% is converted into various milk products. The requirement of milk (including in the form of milk products) as per the recommended nutritional norms prescribed by the Indian Council of Medical Research, for the next two years is as under:

	(Million Tonnes)
1998-99	77.7
1999-2000	79.0

(c) and (d) Animal husbandry is a State subject. However, to supplement the efforts of the States for increasing the milk production, a number of Central/ Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented by the Government of India. Some of the important schemes are as follows:

(i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progen y Testing Programme.